

Message Text

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44

ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 SR-02 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 /113 W
----- 064689

R 121145Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5786

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KARACHI

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 3018

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, NP, PK, IN, BG

SUBJECT: EAST PAKISTAN REFUGEES IN NEPAL

REF: (A) KATHMANDU 1840; (B) KATHMANDU 1270

1. ACCORDING UNHCR RESIDENT REP (PROTECT, DO NOT CITE TO OTHERS AS SOURCE, INCLUDING UNHCR AND RED CROSS PERSONNEL), WHO COORDINATES WITH PAK EMBASSY, THERE ARE NOW 11,800 PAK REFUGEES FROM BANGLADESH IN KATHMANDU VALLEY. OF THESE, 1,200 HAVE PRIVATE FUNDS, AND ARE EXPECTED DEPART FOR PAKISTAN IN NEAR FUTURE, VIA BANGKOK, WHICH IS ROUTE REQUIRED BY GOI. REMAINDER ARE CLASSIFIED AS "DESTITUTES," ALTHOUGH REP EXPRESSES SOME CYNICISM REGARDING PAK METHODS OF CLASSIFICATION, IMPLYING THAT PREFERENCE IS GIVEN TO FORMER GOP OFFICIALS, REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL STATUS. OF THESE, 7,300 ARE EITHER CLEARED BY GOI FOR MOVEMENT DIRECT TO KARACHI VIA RNAC CHARTER FLIGHTS (REFTEL A), OR WILL BE ELIGIBLE WITHIN NEXT TWO MONTHS.

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2. THIS PASSENGER LOAD, REP CALCULATES, WILL REQUIRE

FIFTY-SEVEN CHARTER FLIGHTS (AT U.S. \$14,709 PER FLIGHT). EVEN IF FUNDING PROBLEM IS RESOLVED, HE HAS BEEN ADVISED RNAC HAS CAPABILITY FOR ONLY 30 SUCH FLIGHTS TO END OF OCTOBER.

3. REFERRING TO JULY 11 WIRELESS FILE REPORT OF PRESS CONFERENCE WHEREIN UNSYG ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT FOR REPATRIATION OF BENGALIS TO DACCA, EMBOFF SUGGESTED TO REP THAT AIRCRAFT COULD RETURN VIA KATHMANDU, PICKING UP REFUGEES HERE. REP SEEMED UNAWARE OF AGREEMENT, BUT SUGGESTED AIRCRAFT WILL PROBABLY BE RETURNING FROM DACCA WITH REPATRIATES FROM THERE.

4. REP SAID HIS AND GON'S "WORST FEARS" HAVE BEEN REALIZED, AND NEWS OF "EASY" REPATRIATION FROM NEPAL HAS PRECIPITATED FLOW OF REFUGEES WHICH HE ESTIMATES WILL BRING INFLUX OF ADDITIONAL 8,000 DURING SECOND HALF THIS YEAR, EVEN THOUGH GON HAS ATTEMPTED TO TIGHTEN CONTROLS AT BORDER.
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